

JUNE 10, 1978

ITALIAN REFERENDUM

ANNCR: ON SUNDAY, ITALY'S FORTY MILLION REGISTERED VOTERS BEGIN VOTING IN A REFERENDUM WHICH MAY WELL ILLUSTRATE CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE SINCE THE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER ALDO MORO. VOA'S DAVID LENT IN ROME HAS EXAMINED THE ISSUES-- AND THE CAMPAIGN-- AND HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

THE RADICALS-- WHO HOLD ONLY FOUR OF THE SIX - HUNDRED--THIRTY EIGHT SEATS IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES--FORCED THE REFERENDUM BY COLLECTING MORE THAN A HALF MILLION SIGNATURES. VOTERS ARE ASKED TO VOTE " YES" IF THEY WISH TO HAVE STATE FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES REPEALED-- AND " YES" IF THEY WANT REPEAL OF A THREE-YEAR-OLD LAW STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM.

THE RADICALS COLLECTED THE SIGNATURES BEFORE THE KIDNAP MURDER OF ALDO MORO BY RED BRIGADES URBAN GUERRILLAS. AND ITALY'S SHOCKED VOTERS ARE EXPECTED TO REJECT THE PROPOSED REPEAL OF AT LEAST THE ANTI-TERRORIST LAW.

HOWEVER, THE RADICALS BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE THE MORO EXPERIENCE, THE MEASURE SHOULD BE REPEALED FOR TWO BASIC REASONS. PROFESSOR MASSIMO TEODORI EDITOR OF THE PARTYS JOURNAL " RADICAL ARGUMENTS" GIVES THEM:

TAPE: CUT ONE- TEODORI

THE FIRST POINT IS THAT IT IS COMPLETELY IN EFFECTIVE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. THE SECOND IS THAT THE LAW IS AN ILLIBERAL ONE, IT NARROWS CIVIL LIBERTIES."

VOICE:

PROFESSOR TEODORI SAYS ITALY NEEDS A NEW APPROACH:

TAPE: CUT TWO-- TEODORI

"WE THINK THAT IN TECHNICAL TERMS WE NEED NEW INTELLIGENCE SERVICES TO REPLACE THOSE DISBANDED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS BECAUSE THEY WERE ACTING OUTSIDE THEIR INSTITUTIONAL ROLES. AND WE NEED REFORM OF THE POLICE: MORE TECHNICAL MEANS, MORE MODERN TRAINING AND MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION IN WHICH TERRORISM CAN GROW."

VOICE: BUT PROFESSOR TEODORI DOES NOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE THAT THE VOTERS WILL REPEAL THE LAW.

THE BALLOTING WHICH BEGINS SUNDAY AND ENDS MONDAY AFTERNOON COULD MEASURE RANK AND FILE REACTION TO HOW THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WITH COMMUNIST SUPPORT, ARE GOVERNING THIS COUNTRY.-- PARTICULARLY THE COMMUNIST ROLE.

CLAIRE STERLING -- FOR MANY YEARS A JOURNALIST WRITING ON ITALIAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS -- PUTS IT THIS WAY:

TAPE CUT THREE- STERLING

" IF YOU HAVE , LET'S SAY, TWENTY-FIVE OR THIRTY PERCENT OF THE VOTERS SAYING THEY WANT TO REPEAL THIS LAW, THIS SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING REALLY VERY AMISS IN THE LEFT-WING PARTIES RANKS."

VOICE: TO UNDERSTAND WHY SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT FOR ITALY'S POLITICAL FUTURE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND ONE OF THE MAJOR MOTIVES OF THE RED BRIGADE'S URBAN GUERRILLAS. AS MRS-STERLING NOTES:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- STERLING

ITS CLEAR THEIR OBJECTIVES INCLUDE A DETACHMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN ITALY FROM THE SO-CALLED GOVERNMENT AREA. THAT IS, THE WHOLE HISTORIC PROCESS THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS ATTEMPTED HERE SINCE NINETEEN-SEVENTY-THREE, TO MOVE INTO THE GOVERNMENT AREA AND THEN EVENTUALLY INTO THE GOVERNMENT TO SHARE POWER WITH THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS, IN THE EYES OF THESE ULTRA-LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY TERRORISTS, BEEN A BETRAYAL OF THEIR REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE."

VOICE:

IS IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT ALDO MORO WAS THE ARCHITECT OF ARRANGEMENTS BRINGING THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE

PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIRTY YEARS--
AND THAT HE WAS KIDNAPPED ON THE VERY DAY ON WHICH THE PARLIAMENT
MET TO APPROVE THE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE DANGER TO THE LEADERSHIP FORCES AROUND COMMUNIST
PARTY SECRETARY ENRICO BERLINGUER IS THAT A SIGNIFICANT PORTION
OF THE COMMUNIST RANK AND FILE MAY REFUSE TO GO ALONG WITH
THE OFFICIAL PARTY OPPOSITION TO REPEAL OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST
LAW. THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND
FOR ITALY'S POLITICAL FUTURE--AS MISSUS STERLING EXPLAINS--
COULD BE PROFOUND.

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